



CITY SOLICITORS' EDUCATIONAL TRUST

AUTUMN UPDATE

From the Chairman of the City Solicitors' Educational Trust ("CSET")

27 November 2008

It is a year to the day since CSET announced that a group of the City's leading law firms had joined together to launch the CSET Summer School, a major initiative to promote wider access to the UK legal profession. Our first Summer School was held in July 2008 at Imperial College London. It was attended by over 100 students from nearly 50 universities and the feedback received from the students, lecturers and sponsors confirms that it overwhelmingly succeeded in its objective of unlocking the potential in students who might never otherwise have contemplated becoming a lawyer.

Last night, we were delighted to join together with our sponsor firms, alumni students and representatives from their universities and other academic institutions to celebrate the successful launch of the CSET Summer School programme. I would like to thank Clifford Chance for their generous hospitality in hosting the evening.

For those of you who were able to attend, you will know that we announced exciting plans for 2009 and 2010. Building on the success of this year, we plan to hold two separate Summer Schools in 2009 and 2010, enabling us to offer places to 200 students, double this year's intake. Both Summer Schools will take place at Imperial College, London and will be held one week apart in July.

Speaking at last night's CSET Reception, Stuart Popham, Senior Partner of Clifford Chance, summed up the significance of this year's achievements:

"This year's inaugural CSET Summer School marked an important step forward in our mission to achieve greater diversity within the legal profession. I am delighted to see here this evening so many of the students who completed the programme back in July. I have been inspired by their feedback and wish them every success in pursuing their future careers, hopefully spurred on by the shared experiences and insights they gained during their week at Imperial College.

"I am also delighted to be joined by the impressive number of law firms who have supported this important initiative. I am convinced that our shared objective to widen access to the legal profession can only be done collectively. No one firm could undertake this ambitious project on its own and as we expand the programme to make it available to an even greater number of deserving students, I hope we can count on additional support from the profession."

We also heard much positive feedback from the universities whose students attended the July Summer School. Their overwhelming support for the programme is summed up perfectly by Professor Adrian Chandler, Deputy Head of Bristol Law School. In sending his apologies for not being able to join us last night, he wrote:

“As regards the second Summer School, I feel I must add that a few UWE students attended last year's inaugural event. The e-mails that I received thereafter from them were **unreservedly** positive, containing such words as 'personally transforming', 'truly eye-opening' and 'absolutely brilliant'. I will most certainly be encouraging Law students at UWE to apply for next year's event. As a member of the legal community (albeit an academic!) it is a source of great pride that large law firms remain committed to setting up, and providing generous funding for, events that are designed to widen the range and social/ethnic mix of their staff base, as well as devoting time and energy to ensuring that the study and practice of law remain firmly linked.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, academic partners and the many other parties who have shown interest in the Summer School for their support in making it a reality. We look forward to even greater things next year and I will make it my business to keep you all informed of our continued progress.

Howard Jacobs
Chairman, City Solicitors' Educational Trust
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